

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 ITF-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA

REF: A) KINGSTON 1660; B) STATE 106330

1. FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF COMPLETE TEXT OF PM MANLEY'S
MESSAGE TO PRG WHICH WAS QUOTED IN REFERENCE A:

" THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA WISH TO CONVEY FRATERNAL
GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM
AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM WHO HAVE BEEN FREED FROM THE AGONY
OF THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT TO
SELF DETERMINATION.

" JAMAICA EXTENDS ITS FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT

2. QUEEN'S VISIT AND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE HAS PRE-
OCCUPIED LOCAL MEDIA FOR LAST TWO WEEKS AND RELEGATED
MEDIA COVERAGE OF RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA TO SHORT
REPRINTS ON INSIDE PAGES OF STRAIGHT WIRE SERVICE COPY.
FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARED IN DAILY NEWS AND STAR
ON MAY 6 AND GLEANER ON MAY 7.

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3. THE DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT: "...AND IT

IS UNPARDONABLE THAT A COUNTRY WHICH IN ITS OWN TIME HAD Fought for and won its own independence should have armed itself with lethal weapons and venture forth halfway across the world to prevent the people of Vietnam from claiming the right to determine their own way of life. History will not readily absolve America of the havoc it let loose on the Vietnamese people. The fact that it was national liberation the people were fighting for in Vietnam, was smothered by the American government and a substantial section of the international press. All too frequently the world was led to believe that it was communism the Americans were fighting. Ironically any fight to make the world free of communism which did not take proper cognisance of national independence was bound to make the way safer for communism. No one denies that the national liberation movement of Vietnam was communist backed, but you don't throw out the baby with the bathwater".

4. TURNING TO POST WAR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, THE DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL CONTINUED: ".....PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MISCHIEVOUS TO PONDER, AND TO ASK WHETHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEY LOST THE WAR AND INJECT \$140 BILLION INTO VIETNAM TO HELP IN THE REBUILDING". AFTER MAKING REFERENCE TO THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC HELP GIVEN TO GERMANY AFTER WW II, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: ". . .IF THE UNITED STATES FAILS TO BEHAVE AS A GOOD SPORTSMAN WOULD, AND IS NOT GENEROUS IN HELPING TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY IT HELPED TO DESTROY, THE MATTER OF RACISM IS GOING TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE PICTURE. THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE STANDING BY TO SEE WHAT THE UNITED STATES DOES, AND IN THE MEANTIME THOSE WHO ARE CLAMOURING FOR THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE ARE LEARNING THE LESSONS OF VIETNAM, THAT GIVEN COURAGE AND ENDURANCE GOD IS NOT NECESSARILY ON THE SIDE OF THE BIG BATTALIONS".

5. THE EDITORIAL IN THE DAILY GLEANER IS TEMPERATE AND RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER THE DECLINE OF UNITED STATES POWER AND INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL BE MATCHED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN CHINESE POWER IN THE REGION. THE GLEANER EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: ". . .FINALLY, THE OTHER MAJOR BIT OF DUST THAT REMAINS TO SETTLE IS FOR WASHINGTON TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE TRAUMA OF ITS FINAL DISILLUSIONMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE U.S. HAS GONE THROUGH ONE OF THOSE EXPERIENCES, OCCURRING EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE IN THE HISTORY OF A NATION, THAT LEAVES A PERMANENT MARK ON ITS APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY. THE WORLD CAN

BE SURE THAT WASHINGTON WILL ALWAYS HAVE HER EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA PAINFULLY IN MIND ON EVERY OCCASION IN THE FUTURE WHEN SHE ENTERS INTO COMMITMENTS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD. THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY SENSES IN WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM CAN BE SAID TO HAVE STAMPED THEIR PERMANENT MARK ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS".

6. THE STAR (GLENER-OWNED EVENING PAPER) ASSERTS WHETHER THE WAR WAS A NATIONAL CONFLICT OR A NECESSARY HOLDING ACTION AGAINST AN AGGRESSIVE COMMUNISM", . . . IT IS CERTAINLY CLEAR THAT ON THIS OCCASION AT LEAST, AMERICA FOUGHT A STUPID WAR, WHICH ON STRICTLY MILITARY LOINES, SHE FULLY DESERVES TO LOSE". THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO DEVELOP THE THESIS THAT ". . . TO FIGHT A WAR HALF-HEARTEDLY IS TO MAKE SURE OF LOSING IT".

7. COMMENT: THE DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL UNQUESTIONABLY IS THE CLOSEST OF THE THREE CITED ABOVE TO THE PROBABLE MAJORITY VIEW IN THE PNP LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS REFLECTING THE "OFFICIAL" GOJ VIEWPOINT. THE MANLEY MESSAGE TO THE PRG IS THE "OFFICIAL" GOJ POSITION AND THE ONLY PUBLIC STATEMENT TO EMANATE FROM THE GOJ SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON, DESPITE THE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HAD DURING THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING TO INDULGE IN PUBLIC GLOATING AS DID PRESIDENT NYERERE. GERARD

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